

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

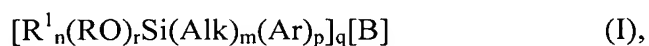
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica comprising
a BET surface area of 150-400 m²/g,
a CTAB surface area of 145-350 m²/g,
an Al₂O₃ content of 0.2-5% by weight and
a modified Sears number V₂ of 5-35 ml/(5 g), and
a BET/CTAB surface ratio of from 1.33 to 2.43.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A precipitated silica of claim 1, wherein the
precipitated silica has a DBP absorption of from 180 to 320 g/100 g.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A precipitated silica of a claim 1, wherein the
precipitated silica has a wk coefficient ≤ 3.4 .

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of claim 1, wherein the
precipitated silica surface has been modified with an organosilane ~~organosilanes~~ of the
formulae



or



in which

B is -SCN, -SH, -SC(O)CH₃, -SC(O)(CH₂)₆CH₃, -Cl, -NH₂, -OC(O)CHCH₂,
-OC(O)C(CH₃)CH₂ (if q = 1), or -S_x- (if q = 2),

R and R¹ are each an aliphatic, olefinic, aromatic or arylaromatic radical having 2 to 30 carbon atoms, and optionally substituted with the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, acrylate, methacrylate or organosilane radical, it being possible for R and R¹ to have an identical or different definition or substitution,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

Alk is a divalent unbranched or branched hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, m is 0 or 1,

Ar is an aryl radical having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 6 carbon atoms~~, which can be substituted by the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester or organosilane radical,

p is 0 or 1, with the proviso that p and n are not simultaneously 0,

x is a number from 2 to 8,

r is 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that r + n + m + p = 4,

Alkyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 2 to 8 carbon atoms~~; Alkenyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having 2 to 20 carbon atoms; ~~preferably 2 to 8 carbon atoms~~.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing a precipitated silica wherein the precipitated silica has a

BET surface area in the range 150-400 m²/g,
a CTAB surface area in the range 145-350 m²/g, and
an Al₂O₃ content in the range 0.2-5% by weight comprising,
a) charging an aqueous waterglass solution into a reactor,
b) metering waterglass and sulfuric acid into the reactor simultaneously into this
initial charge at from 55 to 95°C for from 30 to 100 minutes with stirring forming a mixture,
c) acidifying the mixture with sulfuric acid to a pH of about 5 to form a product, and
d) filtering and drying the product,
with the proviso that aluminum compounds are added in steps b) and/or c).

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 8, wherein the components supplied in
steps b) and c) each have an identical or different concentration.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 8, wherein the components supplied in
steps b) and c) each have an identical feed rate.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 8, wherein the components supplied in
steps b) and c) each have a different feed rate.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 11, wherein with an identical
concentration of the components in steps b) and c) the feed rate in step c) is from 110 to
200% of the feed rate in step b).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 11, wherein with an identical concentration of the components in steps b) and c) the feed rate in step c) is from 50 to 100% of the feed rate in step b).

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 8, wherein the drying is carried out by spin-flash, nozzle tower or spray drying and/or granulation with/without a roll compactor.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A process of claim 8, wherein the precipitated silica is modified with organosilanes of the formula I to III in mixtures of from 0.5 to 50 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, in particular from 1 to 15 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, the reaction between precipitated silica and organosilane being carried out during the preparation of the mixture (in situ) or externally by spray application and subsequent thermal conditioning of the mixture or by mixing of the silane and the silica suspension with subsequent drying and thermal conditioning.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A vulcanizable rubber mixture or vulcanizate comprising the precipitated silica of claim 1.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A tire comprising a precipitated silica of claim 1.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A vulcanizable rubber mixture or vulcanizate comprising the precipitated silica prepared according to claim 8.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A tire comprising a precipitated silica prepared according to claim 8.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A battery separator, an anti-blocking agent, a flattening agent in a paint, a paper coating, a defoamer, a gasket, a keypad, a conveyor belt or a window seal comprising the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 22 (New): A precipitated silica of a claim 7, wherein Ar has 6 carbon atoms, Alkyl has 2 to 8 carbon atoms, and Alkenyl has 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 23 (New): The precipitated silica of claim 1, wherein the BET surface area is 195-400 m²/g.